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**Internet Safety Assignment**

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1) Based on the information presented on both safe kids.com and netsmartz.org, these are some potential internet safety rules that I would teach upper elementary and middle school students:

In school, try to go to websites for school-related materials only.

Use the list of kid-friendly search engines your teacher gives you.

Do not search for vulgar words for fun.

Do not provoke or bully other people online or otherwise.

Do not give out any identifying information.

Never arrange face-to-face meetings with people you meet online.

Avoid meeting people online at all if you can.

Don’t respond to suggestive, vulgar, or mean messages you receive.

Use your critical thinking skills; not everything you read is true.

2) Some safety precautions I would teach older students about social networking are:

Do not post pictures of yourself in a compromising light.

Do not give out identifying information, and avoid meeting people initially online if at all possible.

Don’t use profane language if you want to get a job. Your potential employers have access to face book and can use it liberally.

Respect other users; no cyber bullying or crudeness.

Don’t arrange meetings with people you meet online.

If you or someone you know is being victimized online, tell someone who can

help better the situation like a parent, mentor, or teacher (or visit cybertipline.com).

3) Cyber bullying is “the use of information and communication technologies to support deliberate, repeated, and hostile behavior by an individual or group, that is intended to harm others’(wikipedia.org). This basically means cyber bullying is using the internet to intentionally hurt people, whether emotionally, or to threaten them physically. According to first hand accounts of teens on netsmartz.org, it is trash talking, or anyone contacting you in a mean way on your phone, face book, computer, etc.. Don’t respond, save the text messages, get off the site, tell your parents if it continues and/or contact authorities.

4) “’Sexting’ usually refers to teens sharing nude photos via cell phone, but it’s happening on other devices and the web, too”(safeteens.com). Things I would teach older students about sexting include:

It is illegal. You can be charged with possession or distribution of child pornography, which is a federal felony.

It can result in fines, prison, gossip, blackmail, cyber bullying, peer pressure, and other dangerous repercussions.

It can destroy your reputation.

If you or anyone you know receives a sext, DO NOT FORWARD IT TO ANYONE. If it is of someone you know, tell them. If parents need to get involved to resolve it, that is fine, and they can help you avoid getting everyone involved into serious legal trouble. If you keep receiving sexts, you may need to tell your parents or the local police.

5) I could find nothing regarding “cyber security” on either safe kids.com nor netsmartz.org, although from experience, these are some things I would teach my middle

and high school students about concerning internet security:

Do not open random google images. A lot of them have viruses attached to them, and most of them are copyrighted anyways.

Do not open emails or messages from people you do not know.

Do not visit websites of companies or people you do not know.

Do not click on pop ups.

Do not believe the internet when it tells you that you have won something.

Try to visit websites you know are credible and have heard of or visited before.

Don’t illegally download music or download software to download music illegally.

I could go on for days, but a list of things not-to-do doesn’t seem as effective as simply giving your students many effective and useful websites to use that are safe and credible, while providing them with critical thinking skills so that they may informatively decide for themselves what is safe and what is not safe.